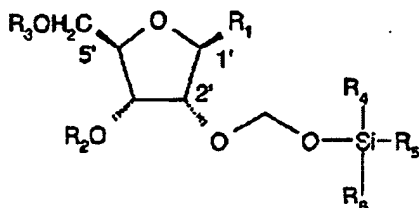


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of amended claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the specification:

1. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative of the formula



wherein

R_1 is a base of the purine- or pyrimidine- family,

R_2 is a proton or a substituted derivative of phosphonic acid,

R_3 is a proton or a protection-group for the oxygen atom in 5'-position,

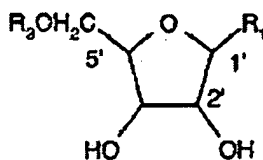
R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are independently alkyl, aryl, or heteroatom substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from alkyl, aryl, alkyl-aryl or aryl-alkyl, wherein the heteroatom is selected from among O, N, Si, Ge, Sn and Pb; or any two of R_4 , R_5 and R_6 , taken in combination with the Si to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring;

and

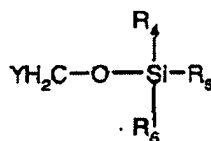
wherein at least one of the R_4 , R_5 or R_6 substituents comprises a tertiary C-atom or a heteroatom that is directly bonded to the Si-atom.

2. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 1 wherein the substituent comprising the tertiary C-atom directly bonded to the Si-atom comprises from 4 to 24 C-atoms.
3. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 1 wherein the substituent comprising the tertiary C-atom directly bonded to the Si-atom is an alkyl-substituent selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl, tert-pentyl, tert-hexyl, tert-heptyl, tert-octyl, tert-nonyl, tert-decyl, tert-undecyl, tert-dodecyl.
4. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 1 wherein the substituent comprising the tertiary C-atom directly bonded to the Si-atom is selected from the group of 1,1-dimethyl ethyl, 1,1-dimethyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-butyl, 1,1-dimethyl-pentyl, 1,1-dimethyl-hexyl, 1,1,2-trimethyl-propyl, 1,1,2-trimethyl-butyl, 1,1,2-trimethyl-pentyl, 1,1,2-trimethyl-hexyl, 1,1,2,2 tetramethyl-propyl, 1,1,2,2-tetramethyl-butyl.

5. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 1 wherein one of R_4 , R_5 and R_6 is a heteroatom substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from alkyl, aryl, alkyl-aryl or aryl-alkyl, and wherein the heteroatom is selected from among O, N, Si, Ge, Sn and Pb.
6. (previously amended) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 5 wherein the substituent directly bonded to the Si-atom comprises a substituted bivalent heteroatom.
7. (original) A ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 6 wherein the heteroatom is oxygen.
8. (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a ribonucleoside-derivative according to claim 1, comprising reacting a nucleoside with the formula



where R_1 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1, with a ~~silyloxymethyl derivative~~ silyloxymethyl derivative of the formula

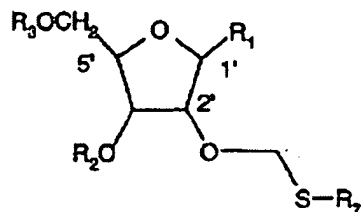


wherein Y is a suitable leaving group
and wherein R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are as defined in claim 1.

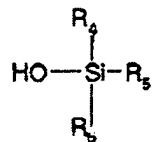
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein Y is a halogen.
10. (previously amended) The method of claim 8 wherein R_4 , R_5 and R_6 together comprise between 3 and 30 carbon atoms.
11. (previously amended) The method of claims 8 wherein R_4 , R_5 or R_6 comprise at least one substituted heteroatom directly bonded to the Si atom.
12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the heteroatom is a bivalent atom.
13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the heteroatom is oxygen.

14. (previously amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ribonucleoside derivative is further substituted on the oxygen in 3'-position with a group comprising of a derivative of phosphonic acid.

15. (previously amended) A method for the preparation of a ribonucleoside-derivative, comprising reacting a ribonucleoside derivative with the formula



upon an electrophilic activation with a compound of formula:



wherein R_1 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are defined as in claim 1 and R_7 is a alkyl- or aryl-group, or alkyl-aryl-group,

wherein R_2 is a protecting group, and

wherein R_3 is a protecting group.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ribonucleoside derivative is further substituted on the oxygen in 3'-position with a group comprising of a derivative of phosphonic acid.